

finished. H.R. 4638 will increase the authorization ceiling of the project by \$58.8 million and extend the authorization of the project to 2008.

Mr. Speaker, Mni Wiconi translates into "water is life," and I believe this is a fitting name for this project. Currently, many communities within the area of the Mni Wiconi project suffer from poor quality drinking water, which has been the cause of water-borne illnesses. The need for this project is simple: Clean, safe water.

The Mni Wiconi Rural Water Supply Project is also a great symbol of cooperation and compromise. The project is made up of four separate rural water supply systems: Oglala, Rosebud, Lower Brule and West River/Lyman-Jones.

This project will bring healthy, safe drinking water and the potential for greater prosperity to over 52,000 South Dakotans, many of whom live in some of the most economically depressed counties in America.

When complete, Mni Wiconi will cover more than 12,500 square miles, making it the largest water project in the Bureau of Reclamation in North America. To service an area of this size, the project includes 4,500 miles of new pipeline, 60 booster stations and 35 water storage reservoirs. I am pleased to report the water treatment facility is fully operational and able to treat over 13 million gallons of water per day.

Mr. Speaker, Mni Wiconi is not just a water project, it is a unique partnership between the Oglala, Rosebud and Lower Brule Sioux Tribes and non-tribal communities in Lyman, Jones, Stanley, Haakon, Jackson, Bennett and Pennington Counties.

During a hearing on H.R. 4638 in late May, each of the four project sponsors were represented in the audience and at the witness table. Their attendance illustrated the unified support this project has from the American Indian and the non-tribal communities through the Mni Wiconi tribal area and their willingness to put differences aside to fix a common problem, poor quality water.

□ 1600

Mr. Speaker, I want to again thank the Committee on Resources for their work to consider this critically important legislation. I would like to thank the gentleman from West Virginia for his work as well in making this possible and getting this legislation to the floor and enacted into law.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JEFF MILLER of Florida). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4638.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof)

the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SANTEE SIOUX TRIBE OF NEBRASKA WATER FEASIBILITY STUDY

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4938) to direct the Secretary of the Interior, through the Bureau of Reclamation, to conduct a feasibility study to determine the most feasible method of developing a safe and adequate municipal, rural, and industrial water supply for the Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4938

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. STUDY; REPORT.

(a) STUDY.—Pursuant to reclamation laws, the Secretary of the Interior (hereafter in this section referred to as the "Secretary"), through the Bureau of Reclamation and in consultation with the Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska (hereafter in this section referred to as the "Tribe"), shall conduct a feasibility study to determine the most feasible method of developing a safe and adequate municipal, rural, and industrial water treatment and distribution system for the Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska that could serve the tribal community and adjacent communities and incorporate population growth and economic development activities for a period of 40 years.

(b) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.—At the request of the Tribe, the Secretary shall enter into a cooperative agreement with the Tribe for activities necessary to conduct the study required by subsection (a) regarding which the Tribe has unique expertise or knowledge.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after funds are made available to carry out this section, the Secretary shall transmit to Congress a report containing the results of the study required by subsection (a).

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary \$500,000 to carry out this section.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BASS). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN).

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4938 is authored by the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE), our colleague on the Committee on Resources. I yield to him such time as he may consume to explain this legislation.

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for his support and for the support of the ranking member for this small, but critically important \$500,000 feasibility study to address water quality and quality needs on the Santee Sioux reservation. This reservation is located on the Nebraska-South Dakota border of northeastern Nebraska; and as has been the case in many previous bills, what we have found is that the water quality on the reservation has really been degraded.

Currently, the system is antiquated and is not working well. It is dependent upon a great number of small wells and water treatment systems; and at times, the water quality is either terrible or the water supply is relatively nonexistent.

Currently, the water distribution systems are at maximum capacity, which limits housing expansion and deters economic development. In this particular case, this small tribe needs all of the housing and all of the economic development that they can possibly secure. So this is critical as far as they are concerned.

The feasibility study authorized by H.R. 4938 would be administered by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the Santee Sioux Tribe through a cooperative agreement. The study will identify safe, domestic water sources, water treatment requirements, water distribution renovations, and engineering recommendations based on a 40-year projection. A revitalized tribal water treatment and distribution system will serve the tribal communities and adjacent communities and will incorporate population growth and economic development activities in an area where economic development is desperately needed.

This bill addresses a critical need of the Santee Sioux reservation, and it has been allowed to go on far too long. I urge the House to pass this important measure for the people of the Santee Sioux Tribe, and I again thank the chairman for his support. I urge passage of H.R. 4938.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The minority has reviewed the legislation and agrees with the majority's explanation of it. We are glad to support the legislation by the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE).

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4938.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

BURNT, MALHEUR, OWYHEE, AND POWDER RIVER BASIN WATER OPTIMIZATION FEASIBILITY STUDY ACT OF 2001

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 238) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct feasibility studies on water optimization in the Burnt River basin, Malheur River basin, Owyhee River basin, and Powder River basin, Oregon.

The Clerk read as follows: